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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Weissenfels

25X1 EVALUATION [redacted]

PLACE OBTAINED [redacted]

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DATE OF CONTENT 15 November 1949 and 17 January 1950

25X1 DATE OBTAINED [redacted]

DATE PREPARED 2 March 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 blueprint

REMARKS

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The following observations were made in Weissenfels (15 52/J 99):

1. Infanterie Kaserne:

a. Occupied on 17 January 1950 by about 1,500 troops, mostly recruits, allegedly belonging to three rifle battalions and regimental units.

b. Three companies were observed doing drill practices at squad level and about 70 men were trained with old Maxim machine guns.

d. A column of unarmed troops carrying baggage and led by a military band, left the kaserne on 15 November 1949 in the following composition:

First battalion:

One major
Two junior officers
25-man band
One block of 25 men
Six blocks of 50 to 60 men each

Second battalion:

One major
Three junior officers, including a medical officer
Six blocks of 50 to 60 men each
Two blocks of 25 men each.

Third battalion:

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Next Review Date: 2008

One major
Three junior officers
Six blocks of 50 to 60 men each
Two blocks of 50 men each
Passenger car [redacted] occupied by a colonel, overtook the column.

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2. Pionier Kaserne:

a. Occupied on 17 January 1950 by 1,500 to 1,800 troops allegedly belonging to the following units:

- (1) Headquarters of a rifle regiment with regimental units, including a military band.
- (2) Guards tank unit of about one battalion.
- (3) Artillery battalion of a rifle regiment.
- (4) Reconnaissance battalion of a rifle division.

b. The following weapons and vehicles were observed:

Four F34/43 tanks, eight SP guns, two armored personnel carriers, one armored reconnaissance car and four amphibian cars.

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Comment:

a. The following component units of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div are believed to be stationed in the Pionier and Infanterie Kasernes, Weissenfels.

174th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt (possibly in both kasernes)
17th Gds Tank Regt (possibly only elements of the regiment?).

The reported reconnaissance battalion in the Pionier Kaserne can only have been the ? No Rcn Bn of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div. A 59th Gds Rcn Co was assigned to this division during the war. It is not known whether the numerical designation 59 was taken over by the reconnaissance battalion of the division.

b. The following third kaserne in Weissenfels is known:

Artillerie Kaserne (also called Polizei Kaserne and Zeitz Kaserne), east of the road fork formed by Zeitzerstrasse and Seumestrasse, north of An Den Drei Lezen square. The brick work of the kaserne was completed shortly before the war. The kaserne was to be occupied by an artillery unit from Saumburg. It has been completed since the war and is now occupied by Soviet Zone German police (S. Bereitschaft and Polizei Schule (infantry)).

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No Soviet troops were observed in the Kaserne (see Annex)

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1 Annex: Artillerie Kaserne on Zeitzerstrasse, Weissenfels.

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